



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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## Goodbye Snow and Cold, Hello Rain and Warm

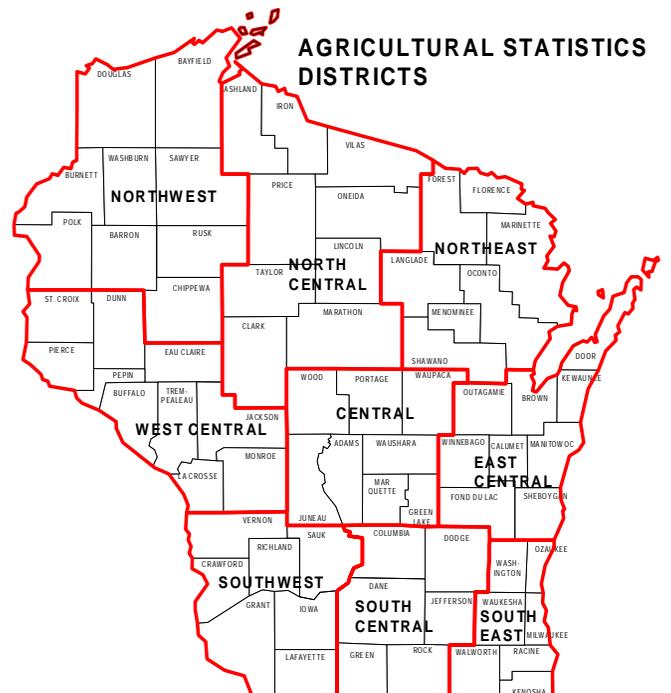
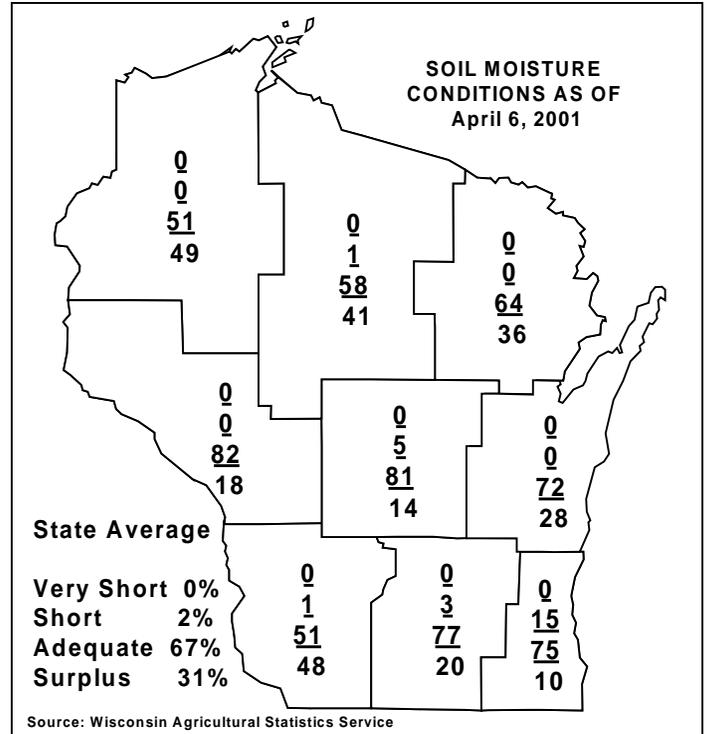
Rain and warmer temperatures late last week continued to remove the lingering snow cover and frost throughout Wisconsin. After the rain, the presence of earthworms near the surface, confirmed the absence of frost. The warm temperatures and rains are needed to get this growing season started. Again this week, fieldwork was limited to 1.8 days suitable across the state. Soil moisture was 2% short, 67% adequate, and 31% surplus.

Wet field conditions continued to keep field activity to a minimum in the northern counties. Lincoln County reported 6 inches of snowfall last Monday. Snow cover in the woods made sap collection difficult last week. Warm days and cool nights maintained good sap flow last week.

Southern two-thirds of Wisconsin reported decreased snow cover. Soft field conditions limited work to high ground. Manure spreading, fertilizer application, and spring tillage were done on high ground last week in southern Wisconsin. In anticipation of future fieldwork, equipment was removed from storage for spring maintenance. A south-eastern Wisconsin reporter noted that a few oat and alfalfa acres were planted last week.

Perennial crops are still dormant throughout most of the state. Southern Wisconsin reported alfalfa, winter wheat, and rye fields greening up. Southern counties reported hay and winter wheat looking good.

Wood County reported cranberry beds appear to have wintered well, most beds still have winter flood water. A Door County reporter stated it was fairly unusual to not have any oats planted by this time. Oneida county reported that field work may be at least two weeks away, even with ideal weather conditions.



**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Past week was very wet. Most fields still have some snow cover, although it is leaving fast. Frost is almost completely out. Maple syrup season was good with warmer days and cold nights.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Snow came off quite a bit this week, but most fields are still snow covered. Still a lot of snow in the woods which makes it difficult carrying sap buckets. Very little frost in the ground; snow melt soaking in rather than running off. Hay is still dormant; needs a spring rain and warmer temperatures. Sap ran well early in the week with 2.5 percent sugar.

**CLARK-G.S.:** Fields are either still partially covered with snow or are under water now and for the near future.

**LINCOLN-R.S.:** Fields too wet. Six inches of snow on Monday.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** Frost is coming out nice and slow. Snow is still melting and soaking in. Getting some nice gentle spring rain; can use the moisture heading into the planting season. Maple sap is running now and appears to be light from reports, both in quality and quantity. One report said about 50:1 for syrup. Fieldwork is at least two weeks away, even if it warms up with some dry winds.

**OCONTO -K.H.:** Most fields softening up enough that manure spreading and other operations have had to cease. Frost seems to be coming out nicely. No tillage or planting activity yet, although everyone is getting anxious.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Very small amount of field activity in the western part of the county. Most of the alfalfa and winter wheat is still dormant.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Nice rain on Thursday; brought earthworms to the surface. Still 25 percent snow cover. Winter wheat is green, but nothing else. Lots of late hay sales, but supply is good.

**PIERCE-D.J.:** Some manure being hauled. Sap is running some; still need sunshine to help this process.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Alfalfa looks like it survived the winter at almost 100 percent. No fieldwork being done so far; still some snow in the shady spots.

**WOOD-T.P.:** Rainfall the past two-three days has brought field activity to a halt. Most activity was manure spreading. Frost is nearly out of ground now. Some local flooding now from rain, but only minimal and little, if any, ponding in fields. Hayfields look good at this point. Fear of "heaving" is likely behind us now. No field activity or tillage as of now. Most cranberry beds still have winter flood on them, but it appears that most have wintered well. Maple sap flow appears to be good, no reports on yield or sugar content. Fertilizer supplies do not seem to be of great concern at this point.

**BROWN-O.G.:** No fieldwork done in the area. A few acres of wheat spread with urea early before fields softened up. Hayfields just starting to wake up. At this time, it looks as though there could be some damage where ice covered some low areas.

**FOND DU LAC-V.F.:** No frost. Can haul manure. Think wheat and hay will be fine.

**MANITOWOC-R.B.:** Fields have soft frost and there are snow banks on the north side fence rows. Difficult to haul manure. Still freezing nights.

**CRAWFORD-V.H.:** Some oats was going to go into the ground, but the rain on Thursday stopped all movement in the fields.

**GRANT-D.W.:** No tillage or planting yet. Receiving some fairly heavy rains. Once fields dry, spring fieldwork will begin in earnest.

**SAUK-C.N.:** Cool, wet weather for the majority of the week.

**GREEN-M.M.:** Many farmers hauling manure and spreading fertilizer.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 8, 2001**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Apr. 7	Mar. 1 to Apr. 7 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	48	30	63	19	39	0	10	11	1.17	2.32	0.07	3.92
Green Bay	52	31	74	21	41	2	16	11	1.63	2.05	-0.54	4.54
La Crosse	54	32	68	24	43	1	16	26	1.67	2.83	0.24	4.97
Madison	56	34	77	27	45	4	28	28	0.40	0.99	-1.83	4.63
Milwaukee	53	34	81	30	44	4	22	n.a.	0.19	0.86	-2.58	5.65

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \*Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.